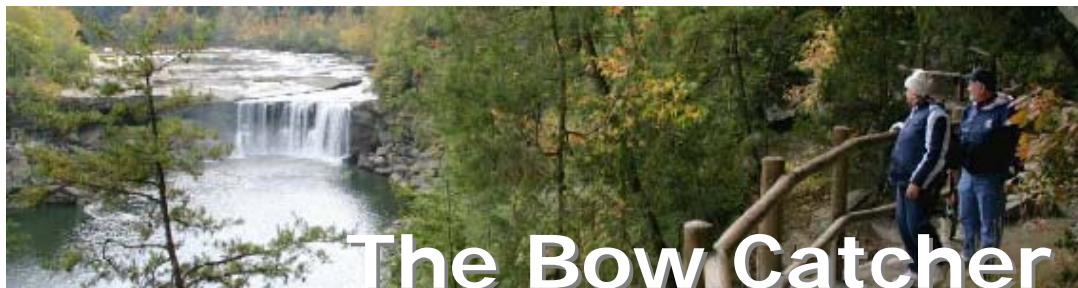


Winter 2009

Volume 2 Issue 1



Newsletter of Cumberland Falls State Park

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2009. It has been a longtime goal of mine to construct a way to get the word out about our unique part of the world and the special things that happen here. The magnificent Cumberland Falls has lured visitors for over a century. For some it is a romantic getaway, and for others a place of peace and relaxation. Cumberland Falls is a nature lovers paradise with over 20 miles of hiking trails to explore. The park hosts many special events and programs that focus on our rich Appalachian Heritage and unique natural history. The park is nestled within the Daniel Boone National Forest which offers almost limitless outdoor recreation opportunities. Whether you are a longtime visitor, or a newcomer to our park, may you get the opportunity to discover some new experiences that will instill a lifetime of great memories.

Bret Smitley, Naturalist

Cumberland Falls State Resort Park

Jam Session at Cumberland Falls

Second & Last Monday of Each Month



Southeast Kentucky is home to many talented Musicians. Cumberland Falls State Park has become the "gatherin place" to showcase our local talent. Due to the Jam Sessions popularity, we have opted to add a second night per month.

Cumberland Falls is inviting musicians to participate in our "Open Mike" Jam Sessions held on the second and last Monday of each month. Non-musicians are more than welcome to join in on the fun. Sessions are from 6pm to 9pm and take place in the Great Room of the Dupont Lodge. There is no charge to attend. Come early and enjoy a country buffet in the Riverview Restaurant from 5pm to 8pm.

Special Points of Interest:

- Winter Special Events
- New Astronomy Program
- History of Cumberland Falls
- Winter Backpacking

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The Mysterious Moonbow at Cumberland Falls



2009 Moonbow Dates

Jan	8-9- 10 -11-12	July	5-6-7-8-9
Feb	7-8- 9 -10-11	Aug	3-4- 5 -6-7
Mar	8-9- 10 -11-12	Sept	2-3- 4 -5-6
April	7-8- 9 -10-11	Oct	2-3- 4 -5-6-31
May	7-8- 9 -10-11	Nov	1- 2 -3-4-30
Jun	5-6-7-8-9	Dec	1- 2 -3-4-29-30- 31

What's a Moonbow?

On nights when the moon is full and the sky is clear, a unique natural phenomenon occurs at the Great Falls of the Cumberland. A white, ghost-like arc of light forms in the mist at the base of the falls and extends down the boulder-strewn gorge. This bent ray of light is known as a *moonbow*.

The Moonbow is formed when the moonlight, is refracted like a prism in the mist of the falls. In this respect it is much like the rainbows that are frequently seen at the falls during daylight hours. However, because the event requires a full moon, it is not nearly as common.

How does it occur?

As a Moonbeam enters a droplet, the higher density of the water (as compared to the air) slows down the light. As the light is slowed it is refracted or bent. Different colors of light are bent at different angles. The different angles of refraction mean that the light is separated into its component colors, the refracted light strikes the back of the water droplet. The inside surface of the droplet acts as a mirror, reflecting the light back to the observer. As the separated and refracted light again passes back through the droplets surface and into the air, the change in density again results in a change in the speed of light. The light is refracted again further separating the colors. Different colors of light are bent at different angles as they pass through the water's surface. Colors of the moonbow are always arranged in the same order. Red is always the outside band, followed by orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and the inside violet. The arc of the moonbow is also a function of the different angles at which the light is bent. The moonbow is a result of light passing through the cumulative effect of millions of droplets. Several factors can influence the quality of the moonbow. These include the amount of moonlight, volume of water, and the wind direction. Hazy and foggy nights can ruin one's chance of seeing a moonbow.

What time does it appear?

The best viewing dates are usually on or within two days of a full moon. The best time for viewing is after the moon has cleared the top of the ridge. The moonbow can usually be seen about an hour after dark two nights before the full moon. Each night after, a viewer needs to add about 30 minutes later each night, because the moon rises 30 minutes later. For example if the full moon was on the 20th of a certain month the moonbow should be visible from the 18th through the 22nd, if the conditions are right. On the 18th let's say that the sun sets around 5:30 pm-the moonbow should be visible at about 6:30pm. On the 19th about 7pm, the 20th 7:30 pm and so on.

What's the Big Deal?

Cumberland Falls is one of the few places in the world where a Moonbow can be seen every month if the conditions are right. One of the other famous moonbows is at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe Africa. The reason that moonbows at waterfalls are so rare is because the viewer must stand with the water source in front of them and the moonlight in behind them. Cumberland Falls has an accessible place where everything can line up in the correct angle. Cumberland Falls has a large volume of water, which produces a lot of mist. The area is also free from light pollution from nearby cities and towns. Moonbows can also be seen out in the sky, much like rainbows. Most are seen from a shoreline on an ocean or other large body of water. Park brochures will have the moonbow dates. Also, most calendars will give the date of the full moon.

Accessibility and Safety

Where can the moonbow be seen? The first overlook on top of the falls is the best viewing spot. For obvious safety reasons do not cross the cable fence. From the falls parking lot just follow the lighted sidewalk past the gift shop and visitor center. The walk is about 100 yards in length and is wheelchair accessible. Certain people may need assistance with the slope. The falls area is open until 2am on moonbow nights and will close at midnight on other nights. There is no charge to see the falls or for parking at anytime. During the winter months sidewalks and overlook areas can be icy, please use caution.

Photographing the Moonbow

Photographing the moonbow can be a challenge. You will need a camera where you can control the aperture. A long exposure is necessary to capture a moonbow on film. Automatic cameras and flashes do not work. A general guideline in shooting moonbows is, set F-stop on 4 at 4 minutes using 400-speed film. You will need a tripod and cable release. Many other techniques will work also. Most photographers will experiment to find what works best with their equipment and skills. Please be courteous to photographers, do not shine flashlights or use flash cameras around the viewing area.

We hope you get a chance to come to one of Kentucky's finest attractions and may the moonbow make its appearance during your stay.

Moonbow Astronomy Center

Cumberland Falls has begun a new astronomy program. With the purchase of 3 high-powered telescopes, astronomy binoculars, and stargazing software made possible by a grant from TourSEKY, the program has started with great success.

The first "Star Party" was held on November 8, 2008 with about 70 participants. With assistance from the Louisville Astronomical Society, participants were able to view Jupiter and some of its moons, our moon, and a couple of deep-sky objects before the clouds moved in.

The next Moonbow Astronomy Center's Astronomy Club meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m. The club will help to enhance the programming at the park and allow stargazers networking opportunities. If interested in joining the club please call Steve Gilbert at 1-800-325-0063.

Winter Star parties are scheduled for January 24, February 21, and March 28, 2009. Star party participants will learn to read a sky map, view the moon, planets, and/or other objects in the sky. In case of inclement weather, the star parties will utilize computer software to simulate what would be seen on a clear night.

Star parties are free of charge.



Star Party Dates Winter 2009

February 21, March 28

Calendar of Events Winter 2009



Moonbow Dinner Theater

proudly presents, in Celebration of Black History Month,

Miss Dinnie Thompson:

No Ordinary Woman

February 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

In a way, Miss Dinnie Thompson was ordinary, a workaday person. But, as a representative of all those black women who worked to make a living in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, she is anything but ordinary. Dinnie was born a slave in the household of a member of Louisville's renowned Speed family. Her mother was a freedom-loving woman who hid Dinnie away on several attempts to cross the Ohio River. They were caught every time.

After emancipation, Miss Dinnie befriended a young social worker named Elizabeth Wilson. Through their friendship, Miss Dinnie Thompson's extraordinary story has been preserved as a testimony to the memory of thousands of "ordinary" women like her. Our dinner theaters will allow you to experience the fascinating lives of some past Kentuckians who had an influence on our culture. The Kentucky Chautauqua program brings these unique characters to life.

Special package price of \$ 115.00
Includes: lodge room, dinner and
show for two.

**Dinner &
Show only
\$30 per
person**

VALENTINE GETAWAY WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 13 & 14

Cumberland Falls has been a romantic getaway for decades. Bring your special someone for a night of entertainment and relaxation. Your weekend begins with a dance on Friday evening, music provided by DJ. On Saturday Evening is a mystery dinner theater. Package price for entire weekend is only 299.00 per couple which includes a two night stay, meals for two and entertainment. Dinner and dance is \$ 30.00 per person and Dinner and Mystery theater is \$ 30.00 per person.

Murder Mystery show presented by Fantastical Theatricals

"Bullets for Broadway"

"It's the Sopranos meets the Producers!"

Tony & Toffee Alto are back, by popular demand. This time, Toffee wants to be a Broadway star and Tony needs to "clean" some money. So he hires two producers to mount a hit musical. "The Mafia Queen" starring Toffee. You're invited to the party after opening night to revile as the reviews come in, along with the FBI and a few stray bullets. It's a brand new evening of Mystery, Murder, Music and great food which just goes to prove that sometimes when people say they're going to make a hit, they mean it!

Backpacking 101

Many people who enjoy spending time trail hiking or in campgrounds are intimidated by the thought of spending a night out in the backcountry. Well, no worries! Let the naturalist staff at Cumberland Falls teach you the basics of environmentally responsible backpacking in the beautiful Daniel Boone National Forest.

These guided overnight trips are designed both for folks without a lot of experience in the backcountry as well as for more experienced backpackers who are interested in learning minimum impact camping techniques. We provide:

- * instruction on how to plan an overnight backpacking trip
- * all equipment needed on your weekend!

So sign up and try out the backpacking experience before you invest in your own gear.

Adventure begins in the morning and the next afternoon. Trip ends is approximately 8 to 10 miles round-trip, with up to 300 feet of elevation change. Participants must be able to walk this distance carrying at least 25 pounds. Registration fee of \$75 per person includes all equipment rental, instruction, and meals. Registrants will receive a list of suggested personal items to bring prior to their trip.

Why Winter Backpacking?

I've had many questions about the Backpacking 101 adventures that we offer. The number one question is: Why do you do this in winter? I have many answers. My quick answer is "No bugs, no snakes, and no poison ivy!" While I consider these to be important factors (except for the snakes), there are many other reasons for winter backpacking, including: comfort, food, and solitude.

As anyone who has been hiking in the winter knows, it doesn't take long to warm up. Many hikers will shed a layer of clothing not long after beginning their hike. Physical exertion warms up a body. So, add a 25 or 30 lb. pack, and you will heat up quickly, making it quite comfortable to hike with air temperatures in the 20s. Our overnight gear was designed to keep you quite comfortable while you sleep with temperatures in the 20s.

In colder weather, you have many more food options. Foods that are typically refrigerated are in little danger of spoiling packed in a backpack on a cool winter day.

My favorite reason for winter backpacking has to be solitude. A small group of backpackers in the winter have little chance of meeting another on the trail, much less chance competing for level ground to pitch a tent. With the leaves off of the trees, you can really see the lay of the land. I hope that you choose to try winter backpacking, with me or for those more experienced, on your own.

Steve



History of Cumberland Falls

In each newsletter issue we hope to have different history articles about the Cumberland Falls area. The following article is a brief version of our park history book, which is available for sale in our park gift shop.

One may ask, where exactly are we? Are these the Appalachian Mountains? — The Cumberland Mountains? Geologically speaking Cumberland Falls State Park lies on the edge of The Cumberland Plateau or the foothills of Pine Mountain.

The Cumberland Plateau is a strip of land running southwest through eastern Kentucky and Tennessee and ending in Alabama. It is a flat tableland in places capped by hard rock. Because of its irregular geological features, its remoteness, and small population, the plateau remains in its natural state.

It is covered with Majestic Forests, waterfalls and stone arches. The rivers and streams have carved great gorges. Culturally the region is considered to be Appalachian, but the nearest mountains of the Appalachians are the Blue Ridge, which is known to most as the Great Smoky Mountains.

The Cumberland River is formed by the Poor Fork, Martins Fork and the Clover Fork, converging at the town of Harlan, Kentucky which is located about 120 miles above the falls. One of the most exciting sections of the Cumberland River is the 6 mile Class 3 rapids running below Cumberland Falls. A commercial outfitter runs guided trips during the summer months. Wolf Creek Dam, near Jamestown Kentucky forms Lake Cumberland which is one of Kentucky's most popular destinations for boating and fishing.

The Cumberland River's journey continues through Nashville, Tennessee and then heads north back to Kentucky as Lake Barkley. The River's 670 mile journey ends by flowing into the Ohio River.

The Cumberland River had been on maps as early as 1650 and was called the Shawnee River by the French. In 1750, one of Kentucky's first English explorers, Dr. Thomas Walker gave the river the name Cumberland in honor of the Duke of Cumberland. The Duke of Cumberland was an English war hero and the son of King George II. Dr. Walker thought that the name would attract settlers to the region.

During the next two decades hundreds of Longhunters were traveling to Kentucky to capitalize on its wealth of game. Hides of Buffalo, Elk, Deer and Beaver were brought back to the settlements and sold. One such hunting party known as the Green Party were floating down the Cumberland River in a home-made boat during the winter of 1780.

Imagine their astonishment when they heard the roar of a large water fall ahead. They had no knowledge of Cumberland Falls and decided to abandon their boat and by a miracle made it to shore. After they watched their boat go over Cumberland Falls, they climbed down to the pool below and amazingly their boat was still intact. One of the men swam out and retrieved their craft

Although many native people ventured and lived near Cumberland Falls for thousands of years, the Green Party is the first Europeans to discover it.

Lewis and Mary Renfro were the first permanent land owners to live near the waterfall. In 1850 they built a small cabin beside the falls. At this time very few people made the journey through the wilderness to see the falls. In 1875 Socrates Owens purchased the property from the Renfro's with the vision of building a hotel at the falls. The lumber used in its construction was floated from upstream to the falls area.

In 1902 Henry Brunson bought the inn from Owens and renamed it "Brunson Inn". The Brunson Family made many improvements, and the Inn developed into a popular resort. Affluent guests came by train to Cumberland Falls Station at Parker's Lake, which is near the Junction of Hwy 90 and US 27. Visitors were shuttled by horse and wagon owned by "Pleasant" Patrick Walker, after 12 hours and at least 4 hours later they arrived at the banks of the Cumberland River. "Uncle" Sam Vanover would greet the weary travelers and load them into a wooden johnboat and row across the river to the Brunson Inn.

In 1924, the Cumberland River Power Company was formed by Samuel Insull, the company proposed to build a dam upstream from the falls. Water was going to be diverted around the falls through a large tunnel to power generators below the falls. Conservationist were opposed to the dam because of the disturbance it would cause to the area. Lumber companies downstream were opposed because the dam would stop the flow of logs sent from Southeast Kentucky. The Federal Power Commission decided not to build the dam. The Kentucky Park Commission wanted to purchase the property from the power company but did not have the funds. Mr. Thomas Coleman DuPont, a native of Louisville and a descendant of the Delaware DuPonts offered to purchase the property and donate it to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a State Park. It was not until 1930 after Mr. DuPont's death that the offer was accepted. The purchase price was \$400,000 for 593 acres and Cumberland Falls State Park was born. The park was officially dedicated on August 21, 1931.

For many years the only way to the falls was from the McCreary County side of the river. Travelers were always coming down US 25 to Corbin and would ask "how do we get to Cumberland Falls", local residents simply said, "There ain't no way to get there from here, no bridges neither". The Kiwanis Club of Corbin had envisioned building a road from US 25 to Cumberland Falls.

The first Trail-blazing trip took place in July of 1927 and was made by a specially rigged Model T-Ford and took about 8 hours, and was made by Robert A. Blair, Wade Candler, Tom Gallagher and I. O. "Sonny" Chitwood. In August of 1927 the "Kiwanis Trail" was born. Over 20 crews and as many as 200 men built the road to Cumberland Falls. An L & N bridge crew built a wooden bridge across a gap that is now known as the "Dryland Bridge". A new highway and concrete bridge was completed in 1931.

At the time of the park's dedication the only facility on site was the Brunson Inn. The name was changed to the Moonbow Inn, unfortunately the Inn burned in 1949.

The early facilities at Cumberland Falls State Park were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1934 and 1937. This program was developed by Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression to provide young men with greatly needed jobs. They built cabins, picnic structures, hiking trails, and the original DuPont Lodge. The Original DuPont Lodge was destroyed by fire in 1940. The current lodge was built by the WPA in 1941 at a cost of \$45,000. In 1951 an additional 30 rooms, dining room and back patio were added to the Dupont Lodge.

For many years the only way to get across the river was by fording, boat or by ferry. There was a great need for a bridge. In 1953 the Dawson Bridge Company started work on the soon to be named Gatliff Bridge. The bridge was completed in 1954 and is faced with native sandstone. Over the years many renovations have occurred to maintain and preserve our unique facilities.

Cumberland Falls Announces Employee Awards

Our staff at Cumberland Falls do their best to make our guests' experience memorable. Some of our employees have been given extra recognition for the exceptional job that they do each day.

Sprit of Cumberland Falls	Bronica Singleton, Front Desk
Customer Service	Brenda Lee, Front Desk
110 Percent	Sam Ridner, Housekeeping
Extra Mile	Verna Patrick, Gift Shop
Above and Beyond	Donna Loudermilk, David Jones and Betty Doyle, Business Office
Leon Singleton	Outstanding Seasonal Employee of 2008

*** Special recognition was given to our dining room and kitchen staff for their dedication and service during the tornado on Mother's Day 2008.**

You're Always Welcome at Cumberland Falls!

In addition to our many planned special events and recreation opportunities, Cumberland Falls State Park is a venue for many reunions, conferences and weddings. Our Groups Sales staff can custom plan your special event. Perched high above the Cumberland River, the Historic DuPont Lodge houses 51 hotel style rooms, plus three meeting rooms. The lodge rooms and meeting rooms have high speed internet service. Cell phone service should be available in the very near future.

Accommodations:

96 Accommodations (51 Lodge Rooms, 20 Woodland Rooms, 25 cottages). All Accommodations were renovated in 2006. All accommodations have electronic card key entry for improved security.

Lodge Rooms: 1 two-room suite with king size bed and living room, 1 king bed smoking, 1 king bed non-smoking; 2 ADA lodge rooms (1 king bed— one smoking, one non-smoking) ;

40 rooms with two queen size, 6 rooms with one queen size bed. All lodge rooms have interior corridors.

Rooms on backside of lodge have wooded view.

All lodge rooms have hair dryers, irons and ironing boards, coffee maker, television, reading chair, all-purpose table, dresser and night stand. Amenities include: soap, shampoo & Bluegrass Blend Coffee.

Woodland Rooms: 10 rooms with two full-size beds and 10 rooms with one queen-size bed. Larger than a lodge room offering a wet bar, small refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot, small porch and outdoor grill. All have wooded view.

Cottages: 19 Cottages have two bedrooms with two queen beds in each room. Six cottages have one bedroom; three with one full bed and three with two full beds. All have wooded views and wood burning fireplaces. Cottages are furnished with towels, linens, cookware and dishes.

Check-In 4:00 pm **Check-Out** Guest Rooms 12:00 noon; Cottages 11:00 am

Meeting Space:

Cumberland Falls has three meeting rooms totaling 3,225 square feet of available space.

The Blair Conference Room is a large room of 1,715 square feet.

The Moonbow Room is more intimate at 1,120 square feet and has been recently renovated. The room has a great view of the forest.

The Magnolia Room is a small meeting room perfect for breakout sessions.

Riverview Restaurant

Located on the lower level of the main lodge you will enjoy our Riverview Restaurant. A new menu awaits guests featuring Kentucky cuisine. The Riverview seats 125, including a private dining area for 65. Buffets are provided at the chef's discretion based on the number guest and groups in-house. Please inquire about banquet menus for private meals, cook-out & working lunches.

Hours: Breakfast 7:00am - 10:00 am **Lunch** 11:30am—4:00pm **Dinner** 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location

Traveling I-75, south, take Exit 25, turn onto US 25 W, then take KY 90

Traveling I-75, north, take Exit 15, turn onto US 25 W, then take KY 90

18 miles southwest of Corbin

**To plan your event please contact: Amanda Grubb at 1-800-325-0063 Email- Amanda.Grubb@ky.gov
Theresa Phelps at 1-800-325-0063 Email - Theresa.Phelps@ky.gov**